

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SY-03 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USSS-00 /024 W

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R 030625Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 209

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, HK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COUNTERFEIT OF HONG KONG NIV'S

1. CONGEN HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY INFORMANT WHO CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PERSONS WHO ARE ABLE TO DELIVER COUNTERFEIT HONG KONG NIV'S FOR A PRICE OF HK \$18000. INFORMANT ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED "SAMPLES." SAMPLES SHOW THAT VISA FROM OLD HAND-OPERATED MACHINE PLATE HAS BEEN USED AS MODEL. SAMPLES OF GOOD QUALITY EXCEPT ONLY IN ONE COLOR. ABILITY OF COUNTERFEITERS TO REPRODUCE MULTI-COLORED VISA UNCLEAR. PLATE IS NOT RPT NOT THE SAME AS THAT USED IN CASE OF CHENG CHUN CHEN (SEE HONG KONG 11852 OF NOVEMBER 27, 1973 AND PREVIOUS).

2. CONGEN DOES NOT USE HAND-OPERATED MACHINE AND HAS NOT USED IT FOR OVER TWO YEARS. IF USE BECOMES NECESSARY IN EMERGENCY, WILL REPORT NUMBERS OF VISAS ISSUED. FOLLOWING MOST OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAMPLES OF COUNTERFEIT AND VISA PLATES CURRENTLY IN USE:

A) VISA NUMBERS ARE MUCH SMALLER THAN ON GENUINE VISA.

B) SEAL IS SEPARATED NOTICEABLY FROM BORDER OF VISA. ON GENUINE VISA, SEAL AND BORDER ALMOST TOUCH. THIS IS ALSO A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENUINE VISA ISSUED BY HAND MACHINE AND COUNTERFEIT.

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C). WORD "GRATIS" IS PRE-PRINTED ON GENUINE VISA, NOT ON

COUNTERFEIT OR HAND-OPERATED PLATE IMPRESSION.

3. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THESE COUNTERFEITS ARE IN CIRCULATION. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ALERT INS THAT ANY VISAS PURPORTEDLY ISSUED IN HONG KONG WITH FEATURES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ARE PROBABLE COUNTERFIETS.

4. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT COUNTERFEIT PLATE IS LOCATED IN MACAU AND SAME PERSONS MAY BE INVOLVED IN COUNTERFEIT OF U.S. CURRENCY AS WELL AS VISAS. INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING IN COORDINATION WITH CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICE. DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED.
CROSS

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